

Message Text

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20

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 SIG-04 DRC-01 /076 W

----- 102917

R 170930Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1474

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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DEPARTMENT PASS CUSTOMS, ATTENTION MR. BRIAN COLE,
INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, TC

SUBJ: AKRIDGE VISIT

REF: A. TEHRAN 2807

B. ABU DHABI 0427

C. TEHRAN 2835

SUMMARY:

CUSTOMS OFFICER ROY AKRIDGE DEPARTED ABU DHABI EVENING APRIL 16, FOLLOWING THREE DAY VISIT WITH HAMAD AL-SABAH, ABU DHABI CUSTOMS CHIEF. VISIT WENT WELL AND SABAH INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITIES LATER U.S. CUSTOMS TRAINING TEAM (CTT) VISIT.
END SUMMARY.

1. AKRDIGE VISITED ABU DHABI AT SABAH'S INVITATION. HAD OPPORTUNITY VISIT PORT AND AIRPORT, DISCUSS LOCAL CUSTOMS PROBLEMS. AKRIDGE DESCRIBED TO SABAH TRAINING PROGRAM OFFERED BY CTT. SABAH APPEARED RECEPTIVE IDEA OF CTT VISIT TO ABU DHABI. NOTED ABU DHABI CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT HAS STAFF OF 145,
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WITH ANOTHER 44 POSITIONS YET UNFILLED.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFFS, AKRIDGE AGREED PROVIDE INFO INDICATING RANGE OF SUBJECTS COVERED BY CTT, PLUS ADDITIONAL ITEMS WHICH COULD BE COVERED IF DESIRED BY LOCAL OFFICIALS. UPON RECEIPT OF INFORMATION, EMBASSY WILL FORWARD IT TO MINISTRY OF FINANCE WITH SUGGESTION THAT CUSTOMS UNITS IN ABU DHABI AND THE SIX OTHER EMIRATES COULD BENEFIT FROM CTT VISIT. WOULD, AT SAME TIME, FAMILIARIZE SABAH AND OFFICIALS FROM OTHER EMIRATES WITH THE INFORMATION. SHOULD MINISTRY PROVE RECEPTIVE, COULD ENVISION NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER 1974 AS SUITABLE TIME FOR CTT VISIT. EVEN IF CTT PREPARED COME EARLIER WOULD RECOMMEND AGAINST IT BECAUSE OF CONFLICT WITH RAMADAN HOLIDAYS AND MAJOR EXPANSION AND INSPECTION OF EMBASSY.

3. AKRIDGE ALSO TOLD US HE WILL INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF AT LEAST ONE ABU DHABI CUSTOMS OFFICER ATTENDING FULL RANGE OF PRACTICAL CUSTOMS COURSES IN U.S., WITH IDEA THAT TRAINEE WOULD RETURN TO ABU DHABI AND BECOME A TRAINING OFFICER FOR ABU DHABI CUSTOMS.

4. TEHRAN'S A-35 OF FEBRUARY 23, 1974 AND ABU DHABI'S A-22 OF APRIL 6, 1974 DISCUSS GENERAL NARCOTICS SITUATION IN THE GULF AREA. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, UAE NOW TRANSIT POINT FOR SMALL, BUT GROWING NARCOTICS TRAFFIC, MAINLY FROM SUB-CONTINENT. VISIT BY CTT COULD HELP AWAKEN LOCAL CUSTOMS OFFICIALS TO SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM WORLDWIDE, AND SHOW THEM HOW TO SEARCH FOR AND RECOGNIZE VARIOUS TYPES OF NARCOTICS.

5. SABAH RETURNED TO ABU DHABI LATE MARCH, OBVIOUSLY PLEASED BY TRAINING RECEIVED AT CUSTOMS COURSE FOR FOREIGN OFFICIALS WHICH LASTED FROM EARLY JANUARY TO MARCH 7. EARLY FOLLOW-UP VISIT BY AKRIDGE TO ABU DHABI APPRECIATED BOTH BY SABAH AND BY EMBASSY. UPON RECEIPT OF INFORMATION PROMISED BY AKRIDGE, EMBASSY WILL MOVE QUICKLY TO INTEREST UAE AUTHORITIES IN CTT VISIT.

6. GENERAL THRUST AKRIDGE'S PROPOSAL AND EMBASSY RESPONSE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY WITH S/IG TEAM OF LIVINGSTON AND WILEY WHO AGREE THAT THIS APPEARS BE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR TYPE OF COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE AS MEANS STRENGTHENING BILATERAL ACTIVITIES WITH UAEG. EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED AKRIDGE WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NAME NE/ARP DESK OFFICER LUMSDEN FOR FURTHER LIAISON THIS SUBJECT. GRIFFIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL TRAINING, PERSONNEL TRAVEL, CUSTOMS OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740089-1066
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740438/aaaabhqv.tel
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Review Date: 19 AUG 2002
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Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: SNAR, TC, (AKRIDGE, ROY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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